



For Immediate Release  
 December 31, 2007  
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

## ***Brig. Gen. Dorko, Col. Hill, Iraqi Generals Visit Nasiriyah Hospital Site***

By John Connor  
 Gulf Region South District



Iraqi and American military officers visited the Nasiriyah Maternity and Pediatric Hospital Dec. 29 to check on the progress at the facility. Pictured are, from left: Navy Cmdr. Michael Lang, head of USACE Adder Area Office; Iraqi Brig. Gen. Sa'ad Harbia; Iraqi Maj. Gen. Abdul Hussein Al Safi; Col. Stephen Hill, commander of the Corps' Gulf Region South District; Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko, commander of the Corps' Gulf Region Division; and an Iraqi contractor's representative. (Photo by Betsy Weiner, USACE).

TALLIL, Iraq—Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko, commander of the Gulf Region Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Col. Steve Hill, head of USACE's Gulf Re-

gion South District, joined two senior Iraqi officials in visiting a project to rehabilitate the Nasiriyah Maternity and Pediatric Hospital.



(From left) Iraqi Brig. Gen. Sa'ad Harbia discusses the progress at the Nasiriyah Maternity and Pediatric Hospital with a top aide, and Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Gulf Region Division discusses the progress with his southern district commander, Col. Stephen Hill. (Photo by Betsy Weiner)

Dorko thanked Maj. Gen. Abdul Hussein Al Safi, the Nasiriyah Chief of Police, and Iraqi Army Brig. Gen. Sa'ad Harbia for their great cooperation. He said the Corps of Engineers wouldn't be able to do its job of helping to rebuild Iraq without their assistance.

The hospital rehab project was almost completed more than two months ago. And it remains in that nearly-finished state today. The project's current phase was budgeted at \$1.9 million. Once completed, the facility will have 285 beds and a capacity to handle 40 deliveries a day. It will be the largest maternity hospital in Dhi Qar Province.

Navy Cmdr. Mike Lang, head of the Adder Area Office of the Corps' Gulf Region South District, said the project is about 90% complete but that construction is at a standstill. He said the next step might be for the Iraqi Ministry of Health to take over the project. "It is a beautiful hospital and very close to being ready," said Lang. "It may be one of those where they take it as is."

However, a representative of the contractor said the job could be completed in a couple weeks.

Dorko said he expects to be meeting soon with the Iraqi Minister of Health and

will discuss the Nasiriyah Hospital situation with him, including what the ministry plans to do to get equipment and beds installed. The general likened the project to playing chess, saying the hard part is the last 10%.

"If we get one project right, we need to get this right," Dorko said of the Nasiriyah Maternity Hospital.

The Iraqi generals asked Dorko to extend their best wishes to Gen. David Petraeus, the top commander of multinational forces in Iraq. They also requested USACE projects, with Hussein urging consideration of projects for police and Sa'ad asking for projects for children and lights for a bridge.

During his visit to Tallil, Dorko praised GRS for "doing a magnificent job."

"I'm absolutely amazed by what you're accomplishing down here," the general said. He said the GRS team has a huge job in huge area of responsibility and that "good, good stuff is going on down here." GRS does construction and reconstruction work in the nine southern provinces of Iraq. The district's current workload is 188 projects valued at nearly \$740 million.

Challenges ahead include adopting to the new environment of PIC--Provincial Iraqi Control, which already is a reality in a number of provinces, and helping Iraqis "do for themselves," the general said.

**Note:** John Connor is a public affairs officer with the Gulf Region South district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, call 540-665-2656 or email requests to [CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil](mailto:CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil). For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, visit [www.grd.usace.army.mil](http://www.grd.usace.army.mil).